



Melissa Marshall
10 West Normandy Dr.
West Hartford, CT
06107
860-561-1089
Melissa.marshall@snet.net

Public Hearing
Public Health Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 5541
March 7, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Melissa Marshall. I live in West Hartford and I'm here today in my capacity as Coordinator of the Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, a coalition representing people from all disability groups. I'm here today to urge you to support Raised Bill 5541 AN ACT CONCERNING INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES THAT EXCEED ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act has literally changed the landscape for people with disabilities over the last quarter century, there are areas where it remains insufficient in requiring features that will promote the independence and autonomy of people with disabilities. The first missing element is power door that allow people with mobility disabilities access to businesses. Although they are sometimes mandated by the ADA, they are not in a majority of circumstances. While people with distillates are the most obvious group to benefit from power doors, are people with mobility and manual dexterity disabilities; elders, children and individuals carrying things benefit as well. Other features that are not required by the ADA could include pictorial menus or sensitivity training for staff who interact with the public.

I am hopeful that the proposed pilot program can make Connecticut a leader in innovations for people with and without disabilities.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this matter.

-
-
-